



MEETING NOTES

Regional Plan 2012 – Working Group for Circulation & Bicycle Element

Thursday, March 8, 2012

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Flagstaff City Hall, Staff Conference Room

CAC Members:

1. Julie Leid
2. Nat White
3. Ben Anderson
4. Mike Nesbitt

Contributing Staff and General Public

1. Darrel Barker, Comprehensive Planning Project Manager
2. Bob Caravona, Advance Planning Manager
3. Kim Sharp, Neighborhood Planner
4. Dave Wessel, FMPO Manager
5. Martin Ince, Multi-modal Planner
6. Kate Morley, Coconino County Planner
7. Brian Foley, FMPO and City of Flagstaff Intern
8. Rick Miller, General Public and Conservation Study Forum

Meeting commences: 3:35 p.m.

Darrel Barker, Comprehensive Planning Project Manager leads meeting discussion.

1. **Revised Goals and Policies:** Darrel Barker opens the meeting by explaining that the goals and policies reviewed at the previous working group meeting, which have subsequently been revised, shall be the first topics of discussion. Attending the meeting is Barney Helmick, Airport Director, so the first item of discussion is Air Service.
2. **Air Service**
 - a. In response to a question regarding potential bus service to and from the airport, Barney responded that there is not enough passenger count at the airport to support bus service from NAIPTA. Barney further stated that if John Wesley Powell Boulevard was connected with Lake Mary Road, that bus service could potentially be provided at the airport. Kate asked if the airport could start charging for parking. Barney responded that they cannot charge for parking.

- b. Dave referred to Policy 10.5, and explained that it was written to address recreational and other uses at the airport. A discussion of general airport uses followed, with Barney explaining that as a public use airport they cannot deny services – but also do not want to entice additional cargo or “air tour” uses. Additional cargo use at the airport would require the expansion of facilities. The difficulties associated with Northern Arizona weather were also referenced. Barney further stated that FedEx and UPS are the two major air cargo customers at the airport and that they choose where they want to go. He also stated that there has been no demand for air tour use at the airport.
- c. A discussion concerning potential airport expansion and the availability of space commenced. Barney explained that there is plenty of space for expansion at the airport and that the master plan shows two runways. However, operation levels are very low for our existing one-runway airport (34,000 operations per year), which is not near enough to build a second runway. In reference to Goal T10, Kate asked Barney if we do not want to be the dominant air service hub for Northern Arizona. Barney responded that we are the dominant air service hub for Northern Arizona. Kate suggested that Policy T10.5 could be deleted if the language “and other services” was added to the goal. It was agreed upon by the group that this revision should be made.

3. **Safety**

- a. Dave commented that we still need to draft “rail safety” and “air safety” policies, to be included under each respective goal. Discussion followed as to whether we want to include a safety policy for each mode under the safety goal. Dave suggested that we might create a policy which references all modes in relation to safety, and include it as one policy under the safety goal. Rick commented that it depends on how the plan is going to be used, and that we probably do not need to repeat safety under every goal, but should just address safety issues under the safety goal. Nat concurred that we should introduce a “safety across all modes” policy under the safety goal, but that we should not avoid referencing safety in other goals and policies of the element. Ben commented that we could always refer back to context and best practices in relation to safety. The working group then agreed that additional policies for “all modes” should be included under the safety goal, but not to worry about removing safety references from other goals and policies. Kate recommended adding the language “in all modes” to policy T2.1.

4. **Rail Freight and Passenger Rail**

- a. Kate commented that clarifications needed to be made within the following policies:
 - i. T9.2 – Clarify what “routine basis” means. The group subsequently agreed that the policy should be re-worded. The group further discussed the use of “improvement to Amtrak service” in this policy and recommended that different language be used.
 - ii. T9.3 - General clarification. The group subsequently agreed that the policy should be re-worded.
 - iii. T9.4 – What does “advance” mean in this policy? The group subsequently agreed that the policy should be re-worded for clarification. The group further discussed

this policy, as it also belongs in the Land Use element of the regional plan.

- b. Dave made a general comment that we need to strike a balance between a “visionary document” and a “practical document” for the entire regional plan.

5. Public Transit Infrastructure and Services

- a. The group first agreed that “public” should be put back into the title of the goal. The group then discussed the goal and policy T6.1, and recommended that the goal be replaced by policy T6.1, with the inclusion of “efficient”. Discussion of policy T6.2 followed, with many references to NAIPTA’s 5-year master plan. It was ultimately decided that Erika would get back to the group with a recommendation.
- b. Policy T6.4 was discussed by the group, with a recommendation that the policy also be included in the Land Use element of the regional plan. The policy refers to transit infrastructure within the Circulation Element.
- c. The group discussed and compared policies T6.6 and T6.8, and it was agreed that T6.8 should replace T6.6, with minor revisions.
- d. The group discussed policy T6.10, and recommended that the policy be moved under Public Support and combined with policy T11.4, with an emphasis being placed on “efforts to secure funding”. It was also recommended that the overall policy be broadened, and not refer specifically to NAIPTA.

6. Meeting Conclusion

- a. The group requested that all track changes and comments be removed from the next goals and policies document, and will therefore be presented as a “clean document”. It was agreed that staff would attempt to resolve all outstanding comments and suggestions within the current document.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.